



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764

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Contact: Karen Szczepanski  
(517) 373-2420

## Garcia Applauds Restoration of Transportation Funding

LANSING – Senator Valde Garcia, R-Howell, today announced his support for the “Priority First” program introduced by Senate Republicans to restore funding for 34 critical road projects in Michigan. The “Priorities First” program will allow local communities to continue key road projects which were deferred by Governor Jennifer Granholm’s “Preserve First” initiative.

“Road infrastructure is critical to the needs of my constituents,” Garcia said. “The projects that Granholm’s administration deferred risk the safety of families in my district. I promised to see the projects in my district restored, and now they are.”

The “Priorities First” program will restore funding for the M-59 road project, located between I-96 to Old US 23 (Whitmore Lake Road). Funding has also been restored for a road project located on US-23, between M-14 and I-96.

“This project is vital for the safety and congestion relief needs of our area. We need to move forward with this project to see that the millions of dollars already spent were spent wisely,” Representative Chris Ward, R-Brighton, announced.

“I will also stay committed and determined to see that needed road improvements are completed as previously planned,” Representative Joe Hune, R-Fowlerville. “With Livingston County being one of the fastest residential growth areas in the State, we can not afford to wait while issues of safety and additional costs continue to rise.”

The Republican initiative will restore funding for 34 critical road projects, based on objective criteria, as proposed in the 2002 Five Year Road and Bridge program. The restored funding will assist local units of government who have already put time and money into the proposed road construction locations in their communities.

(More)

Gov. Granholm's "Preserve First" program deferred the projects without any notice to state legislators, local governments or road building organizations. Local communities around the state were also surprised by her initiative.

The "Priorities First" program constructs a long term plan for the economic development and public safety needs of all communities.

Two public hearings on the deferred road projects have been scheduled to allow local citizens and governments to make their concerns heard. The first hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, April 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville City Hall Chambers, 3275 Central Blvd., Hudsonville. The second meeting will take place in Pontiac, Oakland County, with a time and location to be announced later this week.

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